

commitable, and who now may receive no effective follow-up service or who are charged with minor criminal offenses.¹³ These problems may be particularly acute in some western states where the evolution of new commitment practices is not associated with advances in the nonhospital, ambulatory mental health delivery system. In addition, commitment legislation often excludes particular safeguards that would eliminate some of these barriers to treatment. For example, few states include a definition of the treater's rights (15 percent) or optional 14-day treatment before full judicial inquiry (13 percent).¹⁰ These particular components of commitment statutes insure attention to issues of adequate treatment which complement the emphasis on civil rights.

The physician's role as patient advocate is brought into sharp focus by these changes in the commitment process. A significant group of ambulatory psychotic patients, formerly treated within the commitment process, are now excluded from any treatment system, either involuntary or

voluntary. In addition, many of our commitment statutes require amendment to realistically deal with the patients' right to adequate treatment.

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Metronidazole in Differentiating Amebic From Pyogenic Abscesses

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—WILLIAM R. OLSEN, MD, *Ann Arbor*

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